

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

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March 22, 2000

The Honorable George Radanovich  
U.S. Congressman, 19th District  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Congressman Radanovich:

As you know, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is due for reauthorization at the federal level shortly. On March 30th, 2000, a congressional hearing is scheduled for testimony regarding the efficacy of the Program.

In general, Madera County believes that the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has failed to provide a process and solution for California's water needs. The Program's direction is to help large metropolitan areas of the state rather than small, rural, agricultural based areas, such as Madera County.

For example, the program's draft EIS/EIR, published in June 1999, focused on idling productive land, conserving water, and transferring/marketing water, but lacked any specific commitments to developing new supplies of water. More recently, the Action Principles of the Program, published in November 1999, stated "there is enough water in our state to meet California's collective needs if we manage it appropriately for all beneficial uses."

Our county believes California does not have enough water to meet all the needs of the state and "managing it appropriately" will only reallocate water from rural, agricultural regions to the highest bidder in urban, metropolitan areas. The Program has spent millions of dollars over the past five years studying and publishing information which has not moved our state any closer to developing the additional water supplies necessary for our 21st century growth.

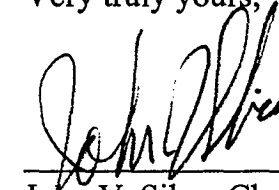
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Lastly, a Stage 1 (first seven years) Implementation Plan for the Program, published in December 1999, includes the Madera Ranch Waterbank with 300,000 to 500,000 acres feet of storage. We are opposed to large federal/state Programs dictating actions to our county. We believe our County, with our local ordinance and permit process, is in the best position to analyze and determine if the Madera Ranch or any other Waterbank project is technically feasible and in the best interests of our community.

With all of the aforementioned reasons in mind, we respectfully request your assistance in denying the reauthorization of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



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John V. Silva, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

JS:skmn